

## IN THE LOCAL FIELD.

## BENNINGTON CENTER.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Robinson visited friends in Hoosick Falls, N. Y., last week.

Miss Martha E. Austin is contemplating erecting a cottage here in the spring if she can secure a suitable building lot.

Mrs. George W. Robinson and family spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Hall, at their home in North Bennington.

Benj. F. Brown is so far improved in health that he continues to go to the city nearly every day in the interest of the Manhattan Watch company of New York.

James L. McCall has made a sale of his double tenement house on "McCall street," to Mrs. Martin Baha who will make improvements on the same in the spring.

The same trio from New York who were here Thanksgiving, spent Christmas at their homes. We refer to J. V. D. S. Merrill, Clarence C. Sibley and George Conkling.

## NORTH BENNINGTON.

First Sergeant Mosely of the Military University at Northfield, is visiting a brother student here. A. H. Cushman.

Rev. W. H. Hurlbutt, who is holding a series of meetings at Manchester, spent Christmas with his sister, Mrs. R. B. Toser.

Mr. Clifford of Bennington, who has been in the employ of J. W. Wakefield, is at present with the H. T. Cushman manufacturing company.

Clarence Cooper of Shaftsbury, a brother-in-law of Wm. Darby, has taken his house, furnished, and will keep boarders connected with the business of the stone mill. Mr. and Mrs. Darby will board in the family.

The Stark Paper Company have run their mills so far, on regular time, and Henry S. Walbridge has manufactured and shipped stereoscopes as usual to date. Our village up to now, has suffered as little, we think, as most any other. All the circumstances connected with this result, in these times of depression, are noteworthy.

Although the weather was not favorable Monday evening, there was a large number present to witness the Christmas tree and concert given by the Junior Society of the Baptist church. The children, in carrying out their parts, did credit to the training which they received from their faithful leaders, Mrs. F. D. Ranney and Mrs. J. H. Loomis.

The Sunday school presented a number and his wife with a splendid oil heater. On Wednesday evening, the Y. P. S. C. E. connected with the Congregational church, held a meeting for the election of officers for the next six months. John H. Cushman was elected president, with the usual corps of officers and committees. Short addresses were made by friends and members present, among them Arthur H. Cushman, Revs. C. H. Peck and W. W. Ranney. Refreshments of cake and nuts were served and a pleasant time was had all around.

A pleasant gathering of the primary class of the Congregational Sunday school, was held in the chapel of the church, Thursday afternoon, from four to six o'clock. The teacher, Mrs. Peck, arranged to have two or three of the younger classes meet with her, and with some exercises of the children, have a few short talks by the friends, and then some gifts presented which would be a remainder of Christmas, and the great importance of realizing its full meaning. It was an enjoyable occasion, and all were highly entertained and very happy.

The death of Wm. J. Tombs, one of our most respected citizens, occurred Tuesday afternoon, the 28th inst. His decease will create a vacancy in the village which will be long felt, as he has been in business here his life time, except a few years he was in Milford, Mass. He would have been 60 years old in January next, and was married twice—the first time in 1849, to Miss Sophia Barney, to whom were born three daughters, Nellie, Florence and Nettie. The first is at the head of the home, the second is Mrs. Morey of Wilbraham, Mass., and the third has been an invalid for several years. The second wife, whom he married in 1873, was Miss Eliza Hinsdill, who became the mother of two sons, Lyman, who is now in Williams college, and Elbridge attending school in Wilbraham, Mass. In early life he taught school, and has been engaged since in the boot and shoe trade, and has held offices of responsibility in the village corporation. He has also been connected for many years with the Hinsdillville Methodist church, taking an active part in its mission and in bearing the burdens incident to such relations. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dutcher, and Miss Grace Dutcher, children of his sister, the late Mrs. Warren Dutcher, and Mrs. Southwick, another sister of Hopdale, Mass., were present at the funeral, as also the friends from Wilbraham. The circle of relatives is quite large, Mrs. Hiram White, a sister of Bennington, being among them. The funeral was from his late residence and was largely attended, beyond the capacity of the house, to seat those present.

One day last week, one of our families in town, whose table is not always blessed with those choice viands that its members so greatly relish, had a practical demonstration of the old adage: "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and lip." Just prior to the time above mentioned, a sister of the hostess, living in an adjacent village, sent them a chicken of enormous dimensions, all prepared for the cook. Chick was duly cooked, minced, made into croquettes (fifteen in number), baked, and left upon a table near at hand, while the rest of the meal was being prepared. Of course the family's appetite was whetted up to a high pitch in expectation of a rare treat. All being in readiness, the croquettes were sent for, when lo! "presto, change," not one was to be found. Then surprise and consternation ran riot in the household. All was shrouded in mystery. What had become of them? Suspicion at once rested on the grandparent; but, no, one stomach could not contain so much as that, all gulped in so short a space of time. Of course a culprit had to be found and the dog was the most available. "Yes, the dog," said the hostess, "and all fell to condemning and beating the poor innocent brute, from the master down. Had they known, as does the writer, the enormous capacity of a dyspeptic's stomach, the innocent would not have suffered for the guilty. The poor brute has my sympathy, for I know what it is to innocently bear the sins of others."

G. L. O.

## FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. It is pleasant to the taste. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. It is invaluable. Beware of cheap imitations. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, and take no other.

## SOUTH SHAFTSBURY.

Clarence Mears spent Christmas at his home.

It was very mild and a very quiet Christmas.

There are a good many sick in and about the village.

Mrs. Ed. Parker has been, recently, visited by a brother.

Adelbert Hawkins had a family gathering at dinner, Christmas.

Mrs. Smith Harris, attended by Dr. Woodhull, is still in a critical condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Pierce made a Christmas, the family meeting with them.

Thomas Rogers, Jr., is home for the holiday vacation, from the Albany Medical college.

Miss Millie Barton attended the funeral of her cousin, William Hicks, at Manchester, on Saturday.

Geo. E. Buck and family, Wm. Cole and wife ate Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Grant Brownson.

Mrs. O. Pierce and children passed Christmas at home, with Mrs. Dean; also Mr. and Mrs. LeBarnes and little son, Dean.

Miss Susie Belden was suddenly called to Salem, N. Y., Christmas night, to her grandmother, who was not expected to live.

Antoine Myres has been critically ill for several days. Dr. Goldwaite in attendance, pronounces him better today (Wednesday).

Miss Grace Watkins, who has been a guest of Mrs. C. S. Mattison the past week, left Thursday for her home in South Manchester, Conn.

Two doctors at this time are not amiss in our town. As there is so much sickness, both are busy from morning until night. Dr. Woodhull also most of the nights.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Collins are rejoicing over their Christmas gift, that of a little son, who tipped the scales at 10 pounds, born on Christmas morning, about two o'clock.

There will be "Watch Night" service Sunday evening, beginning at half past ten o'clock. The Y. P. S. C. E. meeting will open at half past nine o'clock, instead of at half past six, as usual.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stickle have both been quite sick with la Grippe. During Mrs. Stickle's illness, she received the sad news of the death of her brother, Myron Buck. He died at Myron Cottrell's, a nephew, in Hoosick, N. Y.

We notice in the Hoosick Falls, N. Y., items in the Troy Press of last week, the illness of Geo. F. Barber of Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber are well known here, especially Mrs. Barber, as she is a daughter of Augusta Galusha. We also note the illness of Mrs. Sarah Clark, the adopted mother of Mrs. Barber.

Monon in Mrs. Clark's case, Bright's disease is the cause of Mr. Barber's illness. Friends will be glad to hear of the recovery of both.

## SHAFTSBURY.

Wish you a happy New Year.

Miss Rubie Mattison is sick with a quinsy sore throat.

Charles McNarry made a short stay with Albert Barry's people, recently.

Mrs. Asahel Mattison went to Hoosick Falls, N. Y., to spend Christmas at her former home.

There are going to be Christmas and New Year exercises at the Baptist church, Sunday evening.

Miss Anna Somers of Bennington, spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Somers.

The death of Hugh Andrew, who died last week Friday, was quite sad. He was sick only for a few days, with that terrible disease, diphtheria. His father lies at the point of death, and will soon follow the son. The family has the heartfelt sympathy of all.

## POWELL.

The Fitchburg railroad has about sixty cars of export stored on their siding here.

J. M. Thompson and bride returned Monday, from their wedding tour, after a two weeks' stay.

The magic lantern exhibition given Tuesday evening at Parker Hall, was quite well attended.

The Christmas tree and concert at the Baptist church, was well attended and much enjoyed by the children.

## MANCHESTER DEPOT.

Miss Lena Gray has gone to her home at Catskill, N. Y.

There is joy in the family of H. C. Reynolds. Weight 84 pounds.

Mr. Leonard Pettibone has been confined to the house the past three weeks by an injury to his foot.

J. H. Coulure is confined to the house by an attack of la Grippe. Louis Stevens has charge of his store during his illness.

We have received the following tribute to the memory of the late Willie Hicks: Of a quiet, unassuming nature, always active, and a willing worker, ever ready to join his companions in amusements, but devoid of coarseness and objectionable language, there was evidently a life of usefulness before him, but for his untimely death.

## MANCHESTER CENTRE.

Dr. Loomis, who was burned out in the fire is located in the Colburn House.

Mrs. E. R. Carpenter is quite ill at the residence of Col. M. S. Colburn. Her family is with her.

Miss Maud Mattison, who has been passing several weeks in Rutland, returned home Saturday.

Mrs. Sarah Harris and youngest son lately of Schaghticoke, are stopping with Mrs. Susie Lawrence for a time.

The family of H. W. Mattison is occupying the furnished rooms of Mr. Edwin Burritt which were vacant for the winter.

Revival meetings continue with interest at the Baptist and Methodist churches. All are cordially invited and any one is likely to be benefited by attending.

Amos Richardson, a life long and respected citizen of Manchester, died last week. He had no family except an unmarried sister and a married sister living in the West.

The children of Zion church Sunday school were the recipients of books and candies on Christmas Day, the generous gift of Mrs. Skata of New York, who also donated beautiful flowers as an addition to the Christmas decorations of the church.

A. E. Hamilton has been confined to his home by sickness ever since the night of the fire. As a matter of fact there are few houses in the village where there is not one or more suffering from colds and other troubles as a result of excitement and exposure.

Edwin A. Jameson, a life long resident of Manchester, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. W. C. Bourne, in Bennington, Saturday. He was summoned to court as a jurymen and was taken ill

with pneumonia. He was a very successful farmer and business man, who had the respect and confidence of his townsmen, having been repeatedly elected to responsible offices.

The firms who were burned out in our recent disastrous fire have nearly all started again in other situations. The bank is preparing to carry on their business in Spellman's store. H. W. Mattison & Son have their barber shop in the rooms recently occupied by Miss Smith's millinery store. E. A. Fisher has his stock of tinware and stoves in the "hide room" of the tannery, J. T. Bentley has removed to the Depot and W. H. Bundy has opened his market in the small house just north of Dr. Wyman's residence.

These situations are only temporary and it is to be hoped that the burned district will soon be covered with a good substantial brick block, which will afford all the needed room for the present business purposes of the village. Should this be the case the calamity which now seems so disastrous may prove to be a blessing in disguise to the village as a whole if not to individuals.

The Journal gives the following: "The amount of insurance carried by the parties burned out is as follows: C. J. Wait on buildings, furniture and stock in drug store \$4,750; Graves and Colburn on Howe block, 3,000; Estabrook on Opera House and contents 3,500; Factory Point National Bank on furniture safes, etc. 800; A. E. Hamilton on goods, 6,000; Masonic Lodge 750; Masonic Chapter, 300; H. W. Mattison on house, furniture, etc. 1,400; E. A. Fisher on stock, 750; Myron Morse on meat market building 1,050; J. T. Bentley on stock 500; E. R. Carpenter on blacksmith shop, house, etc. 1,200; J. G. Martin on law library 400; Fisher and Bentley on moved most of their stock and C. J. Wait's brick building did not burn, though that and the stock was badly damaged. In all other cases the loss will exceed the insurance. The safes recovered from the ruins are all in good condition with contents in good order. The bank has already commenced business in Burton's & Co's store. Mattison and Carpenter are the worst sufferers, losing their homes and everything with light insurance."

In addition to what we said last week, the following from the Rutland Herald gives an account in detail of our late fire calamity: When the fire was discovered, it had gained considerable headway. The alarm called out the Pacific engine, but it was some little time before it worked properly, and by this time there was no hope of saving the building, which is of wood and which burned like tinder. Nothing whatever was taken out of this building, which was located on the corner of the clothing store and the Battenkill National Bank. The bank safes appear to be in a good condition, but can not be opened until an expert arrives. Above Hamilton's store was Martin & Archibald's law office. They lose their books and papers, except what were in their safe, and that has not yet been opened. Over the bank were the rooms of the Onda Game club, who lose their furniture, etc. In the upper story are the rooms of the Masonic bodies, who lose everything. Next east of this building was the dwelling house and barber shop of H. W. Mattison, which were burned, though some things were saved from the building. Next came Estabrook's opera house, a wooden building, which was soon in flames. The heat from the two burning buildings was intense, so the limbs of trees on the opposite side of the street took fire. The Central Cash store which is directly opposite, was in imminent danger, and is badly scorched, and its plate-glass windows were broken, but by the exertions of the firemen, the fire was prevented from crossing the street. The opera house building was occupied on the lower floor by James T. Bentley, who lost his furniture, etc. The upper floor was the residence of the family. The greater part of their stock was removed. The furniture, piano, etc., in the hall were burned. The next building was Bundy's meat market, which was destroyed with some of the stock. The next buildings were E. R. Carpenter's dwelling and blacksmith shop, which were burned with most of their contents. This ended the fire in that direction, and very effectively dwelling beyond was about half burned before the fire was extinguished. Next south of the Howe block was a small wooden building, at present unoccupied, which was burned. The next building is C. J. Wait's dwelling and drug store and is of brick. This was on fire several times and is considerably damaged. It was only by hard and persistent work on the part of the firemen, that it was saved and the fire stopped in this direction. The large tannery buildings of M. S. Colburn, across the river, also took fire, but the flames were extinguished without doing much damage. There were no steam whistles to give a general alarm, and messengers were sent to Manchester village for help. They responded as soon as possible with the Undine engine and other effective work in staying the progress of the flames. Without them Wait's drug store, Burton & Co's store, the Central Cash store and many more buildings would probably have burned. The heat was so great that one engine could cover but a part of the exposed territory. It is fortunate that there was little wind at the time and plenty of water. The Howe block is owned by Colburn & Graves, valued at \$4,500; insured for \$3,000. Mattison is insured for \$1,500, which will not cover his loss by several hundred dollars. Estabrook is insured for \$3,000 on the opera house building. The loss will be considerably greater. The other losses were mostly and perhaps all insured. The aggregate loss will be \$20,000 to \$25,000, probably two-thirds covered by insurance. C. J. Wait was sick and helpless in his house, but was removed to the Colburn House. Landlord Shaffer of the Colburn House furnished hot coffee and a free lunch to many of the firemen, and others furnished coffee, etc. The origin of the fire is not known. Persons passing the store a half hour before the fire saw nothing wrong. One man says he looked into the window, where the fire was discovered, and saw nothing out of the way. It was the worst fire Manchester ever suffered, and shows that the firemen should be drilled, the apparatus kept in better order, and a better system of fire signals inaugurated between villages. Had the village engine been on hand fifteen minutes earlier, the opera house and other buildings, and half the loss would have been saved. The Pacific engine did splendid work, but the fire was too much for one engine. Some or all of the buildings will be rebuilt, but until that is done, the firms burned out can find scant accommodation. It is likely that the bank will be moved temporarily into the store of Burton & Co. Later—the safes of the Factory Point National bank were opened Tuesday morning and their contents found preserved entire. The bank resumed business in new quarters at 1 o'clock Wednesday, without the loss of a dollar, except by the interruption and inconvenience.

—Dean's Rheumatic Pills absolutely cure, rheumatism and neuralgia. Entirely vegetable safe.

## MANCHESTER.

Payson and John Wild were at J. N. Hard's during Christmas.

E. A. Hemenway, of St. Paul, Minn., is visiting his brother, Dr. Hemenway.

Mrs. Young picked a large bouquet of pansies from her garden Christmas day.

The annual meeting of the Congregational society will be held at the church next Monday at 10 a. m.

J. M. Marbury is home from Norwich University for the holiday vacation, and has a school friend with him.

The Christmas exercises of the Congregational Sunday school, both on Saturday afternoon and Sunday evening, were very interesting.

The annual meeting of Undine Engine Company No. 2, for election of officers will be held at the engine house next Tuesday evening.

The annual meeting of Fire District No. 2, for election of officers and other business will be held at the Court House next Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

W. B. Anderson was in Boston some time with his sister, who went there to have a surgical operation performed, but she did not recover from its effect and died last week, the interment being at their home in Enosburgh.

There being no hall at Manchester Centre, the annual meeting of the Battenkill Industrial Society will be held in the Court House on Thursday next week at 10 a. m. The society reduced its indebtedness about \$500 the past year and now owes about \$850.

We learn from an Oregon paper that J. R. Wetherbee has resigned his position as General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., at Salem, to accept the chair of Physical Culture in the State University. Prof. Wetherbee sounds rather oddly, but we are very glad of his advancement as he is a deserving young man.

William H. Harley died last Thursday morning, after a short illness. He was a young man of many good traits of character and few bad ones. We doubt if there is another man of his age in town who had as many friends and as few enemies. Very many of our citizens showed their respect for him by attending his funeral at the Court House, Saturday the interment being at East Dorset. He was unmarried, but leaves a dependent mother and sister, his two brothers having gone West many years ago, and it is not known they are still living.

## DORSET.

The State Board of Agriculture will hold a meeting here February 6 and 7.

Miss Hartig, a State Evangelist, addressed several meetings last week. She was well received.

The Dorset schools, thirteen in all, commenced the winter term December 4th, with the following teachers: District No. 1, West Road, Miss Georgia Leach; No. 2, Nina Marsh; No. Dorset Hollow, Fannie Beebe; Village, No. 7, Cora B. Hook higher department, Cora M. Marsh primary; South Dorset, Maggie McNamee higher department, Lizzie Maier primary; Morse's district, Sarah Kelleher; Dorset Hill, Mary Talley; North Dorset, Maggie Sheridan; East Dorset village, Miss Ryan higher department, Sarah Cunningham intermediate, Emily Roberts primary. The schools closed last Friday for the holidays, beginning again on January 2nd. The writer was present with quite a number of others who had children there, during the Christmas exercises Friday afternoon, in School Hall in District No. 7, where nearly 50 pupils took part, under the management of Misses Hook and Marsh. Several choruses were sung by the school harmoniously, leading one to enquire from whence came such sweet voices. When we consider whose children they are we do not wonder at it, having stood beside their parents year after year, and away back in the fifties under the leadership of S. P. Cheney, both in singing school and choir. It is to be regretted that there is no musical instruction being given the children in this town. Each pupil had their piece, from the little five-year-old to the young man or woman sufficiently eloquent to grace any station in life. Selections were read by Miss Hook in a commendable manner, after which, prefaced by a happy speech by the teachers, Christmas cards were presented to each pupil.

## EAST DORSET.

There will be special service at the church next Sunday.

Quite a number in the village are ill, mostly with la Grippe.

The light from the Manchester fire was seen very plainly here.

Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Ames have gone to Johnston, Pa. for the winter.

Beef is selling for 5 and 6 cents, pork for 8, butter 25 and eggs 25 cents.

Frederley's works on the quarry closed for the winter, Saturday noon, but the men were paid for the full day.

Lumbermen and others are sorry to see snow disappear, though we have had three weeks of fine sleighing.

Curtis Battis received a check of \$25 as a Christmas present from the Freedley's. Mrs. Battis passed Christmas with her daughter in Bennington.

B. P. Bowen, treasurer of old school Dist. No. 9, has received some public money and is making a dividend to tax payers who will please call and get it.

Christmas passed off very quietly here, though Santa Claus was very generous with his presents to the children and some of the older ones were not neglected. Rev. Mr. Pinkerton received a nice fur cap.

## PERU.

The State Board of Agriculture will hold a meeting here February 6 and 7.

A large number of Peruvians have been complaining of la Grippe and hard colds.

Our lumber business has had a good start, the sleighing being very fine, but the recent thaw will make it hard going in some places.

Our telegraph operator, Louise Whitney died last week, after a short illness. She was very accommodating and efficient, and a woman of many good qualities and will be greatly missed in this community.

## RUPERT.

The late thaw spoiled the fine sleighing.

Grant Loveland of Hebron, who was fatally injured while coasting last week, was remarkable in several respects. Though only fifteen years old he was six feet and two inches tall and weighed over two hundred pounds and a giant in strength. His intellect was as strong as his body, he being able to solve hard arithmetical problems mentally in very short order, and he could spell words backwards almost as well as in the usual way.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

—Dean's Rheumatic Pills absolutely cure, rheumatism and neuralgia. Entirely vegetable safe.

## ARLINGTON.

Schools in district No. 2, commence next Tuesday.

Mrs. George Holden is recovering from an attack of pneumonia.

Miss Hattie Phillips is spending the Holidays in New York with Mr. and Mrs. Pratt.

Mr. Perley Sischo who has been in poor health for several years, has been very much worse for the last ten days.

Mrs. Austin Bartlett who died at her home Saturday morning was buried Tuesday afternoon. She was 67 years of age. The funeral was held at St. James church.

Sylvester Deming who attends Williams College, Charles Adams and Paul Deming who attend Middlebury College, are home for the Holidays, also, the young people who attend Burr and Burton Seminary and Miss Nellie and Lena Canfield.

A family gathering was held at Mr. C. B. Vail's, Christmas, consisting of five brothers and one niece, two of them being from Canada, one from New Jersey, one other and daughter, from Lake Michigan. All pronounced it a Merry Christmas.

—People are wishing each other the compliments of the season and exchanging gifts. Did it ever occur to you to send an ailing friend a package of Ayer's Sarsaparilla? If not, do so now; and try this medicine yourself, if you need a first-class blood-purifier.

## EAST ARLINGTON.

Mrs. N. G. Hard and Willie Andrew are improving.

Wm. B. Hard and family and O. D. Andrew and family spent Christmas in town.

The ladies of the Congregational society were well pleased with the result of the fair. It was considered quite a success.

Christmas day passed by quietly. There were family gatherings to exchange gifts and eat Christmas pie together, and there was a Christmas concert on Sunday evening, but no tree this year.

There have been several cases of diphtheria on "Maple Hill." Some have been fatal. We hope the disease will soon be checked. The families are quarantined. La Grippe is also around, but this is not so dreadful.

C. B. Hard went to Waterbury, Conn., this week. He was to be married on Wednesday, December 27, to Miss Emma Wirth. After a short visit with Mr. Hard's son, Andrew, in York State, and with Rev. Mr. Searing's family in Walton, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. Hard will return to Arlington and begin house-keeping in Mr. Hard's former home. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Hard much peace and prosperity.

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